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WHAT 4-H CLUB WORK MAY CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR HOME U. S. Department of Agriculture

A radio talk by Miss Gertrude L. Warren, Organization Boys' and Girls' Club Work, Office of Cooperative Extension Work, U. S. Department of Agriculture, delivered through Station WRC and 40 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, May 3, 1930.

This has been a beautiful home week in Washington. The trees are a mass of bright green foliage; the later spring flowers are in full bloom and many of our lovely old Virginia and Maryland homes are holding "open house" to visitors from all parts of our country. It has been inspiring to wander thru the old-fashioned fragrant gardens with their box hedges, azaleas and iris, their gray flagstones and gnarled trees casting glimmering shadows on velvety lawns where one feels the sweet, heavy hush of old beauty. It has been inspiring, too, to wander thru the spacious rooms of these historic homes where once lived those statesmen to whom all of us, as Americans, are indebted for many of the privileges which we now enjoy. They loved their homes and wrought in them ideas gained from many places and in many ways. It was their love for these homes, too, that made them indifferent to hardships, brave in battle, and unflinching at the council table.

Similarly, today, your mothers and fathers are striving hard to make your homes as safe and as lovely as possible for you. However, it is only when you contribute your share and perhaps more to the beauty and spirit of the home that it becomes really meaningful to you and truly enjoyable to the other members of your family group. Herein 4-H club work can play a large part. Our reports are rich with splendid stories of what some of you 4-H club boys and girls are actually doing. I read yesterday of how Irene Lauderdale of Talbert County, Mississippi, has improved and beautified her whole home. I also read of how Dorothy and Olive Gibbons of Portage County, Ohio, were able, thru their 4-H club instruction, to care for their home and for their little brother and sister in such a way that the family were enabled to stay together after losing their loved mother.

I wonder if you boys and girls have ever counted up the large number of things that can be learned thru 4-H club work that may contribute to a happier home life. Why not jot some of these down as I give them and then see how many more you can suggest? Are you ready with your pencils? Here is my list: learning to use carefully the money earned thru such activities, as crop and livestock, for the wise purchase of those furnishings that make for the comfort and happiness of the whole family; learning to repair and rearrange your home furnishings to best meet the convenience of all; learning to prepare and serve appetizing food attractively and in keeping with the dietary needs of each member of your family; keeping yourselves physically fit and well-groomed in order to be efficient for your work in the home and enjoyable to others; learning to care for your younger brothers and sisters in their play and work hours; learning to be real partners to your mothers and fathers in making happy play times for all; learning to assume your share of responsibility in the daily routine work of the home; learning to so do the necessary work in your homes

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that each of your mothers may have a real vacation also; learning to cooperate in the home in such way that the money available for clothing and other needs can be spent in the best interests of all; learning to make good use of the helpful ideas gained from observations of other homes on your club tours and trips to distant places as have the worthwhile men and women thruout history; and last on my list; learning to plant to best advantage flowers and shrubs and trees around your homes to the end that they may give to those who pass by some of the spirit of friendship and happiness that abounds within. For after all, to me the really lovely home is the one in which the eyes of all are centered upon making others happy and more comfortable and where all share with mother and father in the daily program of home life together.

4-H club work plays another part in the home life of rural America. Have you ever thought of the fine homes that are being built today by young men and women together who received their first inspiration and guidance thru 4-H club work? But that is another story.

In closing, my wish for you 4-H club boys and girls this time is that, in the words of our 4-H club song, each of your own homes may be such that

"Every heart that enters  
Shall hear its music there  
And find some simple beauty  
That every soul may share."